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## Pro-Goncalves Communiques Disavowed

### Portuguese Dissidents Appear to Win a Round

Portuguese President Costa Gomes last night disavowed two presidential communiques issued earlier yesterday that had made it appear he was backing a continuation of the government of Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves. Both communiques were released by the Fifth Division of the Armed Forces General Staff, the Communist-dominated propaganda and information service.

The communiques could have been issued without the President's authorization in a deliberate attempt by the Communists to mislead the public and to provide momentum to a last-ditch effort to scuttle the plans of the anti-Communist Antunes group and save Goncalves.

On the other hand, there were press reports during the weekend that the anti-Goncalves forces were split by a disagreement, and we cannot exclude the possibility that Costa Gomes authorized the communiques in an effort to aggravate divisions in the anti-Communist camp. If so, it would seem that the scheme has backfired.

The communiques were carried by the official state radio and television before they were retracted. They contained decisions supposedly reached earlier at a meeting of the ruling three-man direc-

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## Portugal . . .

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torate and other key military figures. The communiques asserted that:

- The government headed by Goncalves would continue to run the country.
- The Revolutionary Council would be restructured, and the Armed Forces General Assembly would determine the fate of nine anti-communist officers removed from the Council for their opposition to Goncalves.
- A new political program for the country would be based on a document drawn up by officers of the security forces and a program already set forth by the Goncalves government.
- The political program supported by the anti-communist group led by Major Melo Antunes is unacceptable.
- Firm action would be taken by military and paramilitary forces against those instigating anti-communist incidents throughout the country.

The first communique, issued early yesterday morning, elicited a warm response from the Communists, from an allied party, and from the Communist-dominated trade union federation. Yesterday evening, the President's office ordered a suspension of further broadcasts of both the communique and any comments on its contents.

The second communique, which provided additional details of the decisions supposedly reached at the high-level meeting, was declared null and void because it supposedly was drawn up and published without the President's knowledge.

The Antunes group is now likely to be



Army Chief of Staff Fabio

even more insistent in its demands for an end to the present government.

Over the weekend, Army Chief of Staff Fabio—who has been selected by the anti-communist group to replace Goncalves—issued an outspoken communique of his own that sounded very much like a bid to rally public support for a move against Goncalves. Fabio, in an indirect criticism of the Prime Minister, said it is wrong to label those who criticize the revolution as reactionaries. He said the time has now come to correct the mistakes of the revolution.